Reply of Government.—A Draft Regulation with Rules thereunder is under consideration and the disposal thereof will be expedited.

EXCISE.

Subject No. 77.
(a) Bagani Shendi.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The Deputy Commissioner of Kadur has not yet settled the question of bagani toddy. The Malnad raiyats are labouring under great difficulties. Early orders are solicited.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur represented that *native* planters do not require toddy for making bread, that they had always been drawing it for the use of *Jeetgars*, and that if the rules have been correctly interpreted by Government, they may be modified so as to restore the privilege hitherto enjoyed. They added that a similar privilege should be conceded to Kandayam-paying raiyats also.

2. Messrs. Davaru Sastri, Lakshminarnappa, and Channakesava Rao of the Koppa Taluk said that great restrictions had been imposed on the rights of the Malnad raiyats to the bagani trees on their holdings and requested that these may be withdrawn.

Reply of Government.—The order No. 11897-906—Excise 485 of 20th June 1898, seems sufficiently liberal; but the present representation that "Domestic purpose" should be made to include *Jeetgar's* drink is noted for consideration.

(b) Tree marking in Kans.

Summary of discussion.—(*b*) Tree marking in *Kans* may be discontinued as it leads to loss of Revenue and is attended with inconvenience.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done.

Subject No. 78.
Tapping of date trees on occupied lands.

Summary of discussion.—When date trees on occupied lands are tapped, a tax of Re. 1-1-0 is levied by Government. The owner of the land generally gets only a few annas. Raiyats are thus not encouraged to plant and cultivate date trees. It is prayed that the owner of the land may be paid Re. 1 for each tree, the cess of one anna going to Government.

Mr. D. Venkatramaiya of Bangalore said that tree-rent had been held in abeyance in Government lands for 3 years. That being so, contractors naturally do not go to occupied lands and pay extra rent to the occupant in addition to Re. 1-1-0, which is all that they have to pay for trees in Government lands. Tree-tax itself is an anomaly and should be abolished. The imposition of a duty of so much per gallon is preferable.

2. Mr. Mallappa of the Local Fund Board, French Rocks, requested that the tax payable by contractors to Government might be reduced, in order that the contractors might pay more to the owners for the trees on their lands.

Reply of Government.—The rent has been temporarily held in abeyance to familiarize the system. The tree-tax cannot be abolished.

Subject No. 79. Toddy sales to be held once in 3 years.

Summary of discussion.—The present system of holding toddy sales once a year is attended with many evils. The contractors suffer loss during the rainy season, which they are unable to make good in a single hot season. The sales may therefore be held once in 3 years.

Reply of Government.—No change in the present system seems called for.

Subject No. 80. Poppy cultivation.

Summary of discussion.—The restrictions imposed on poppy cultivation may be removed.

Reply of Government.—The Government are not prepared to do this.

Subject No. 81. Inamdars' claim to Toddy Revenue.

Summary of discussion.—It was promised at the last meeting that the question of the Inamdars' Toddy Revenue would be disposed of early. The present tree-tax system deprives the Inamdars of their rights, and has the effect of transferring the revenue entirely to Government. It is therefore requested that Government will re-consider the matter and allow a concession to the Inamdars who are entitled to the Toddy Revenue of their villages.

Mr. T. S. Mallikarjunappa of Mysore Taluk said that Inamdars' rights should be protected as against the pretensions of hiduvalidars in Inam villages.

The amount of Abkari Revenue due to Inamdars from 1892 to the end of June 1898 should be ascertained and paid to them. The revenue payable annually to the Inamdars in future should be fixed on the average of the past ten years or they should be paid annas 8 per tree out of the tree-tax realizations. The present system being very prejudicial to the interests of the Inamdars, it is requested that some such arrangement as that proposed above may be ordered.

Jodidars and Kayamguttadars may be allowed to take the Abkari Revenue of their villages as it is included in the calculation of the quit-rent or jodi.

Reply of Government.—The settlement of the question will be expedited. Advances are being given to Inamdars now. The rules which are under preparation deal with all questions involved.

Subject No. 82. Concessions to new Toddy Contractors.

Summary of discussion.—The concession granted to incoming toddy contractors to draw toddy for 10 days in June, in anticipation of the commencement of their contract, may be extended to 25 days, as the toddy tapped from new trees will not be conducive to the health of consumers.

Reply of Government.—The period allowed has been extended to 15 days.